NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Publishers of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D. C. 20036 783-6505

July 10, 1975

Mr. William Loeb
Manchester Union Leader
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

Dear Bill:

If it meets with your approval, we would like to publish your history of the Massachusetts Rifle Association substantially as it appears in the pamphlet that you sent me. As the anniversary date falls in November, we are thinking of it in terms of our November issue. Do you happen to know of any available photographs or illustrations? We have a couple which might do but could use others, assuming that we go ahead with the project.

Best wishes always.

Cordially,

Ashley Halsey, Jr.
Editor
The American Rifleman

AH:my

1316 N. Bennett Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909
November 19, 1975

The National Rifle Association of America
1600 Rhode Island Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

NOV 24 AM 9:38

Dear Sir:

Since becoming a member of the National Rifle Association I have read many interesting articles in the American Rifleman. An article that really took my eye and brought back memories was the article in the November Issue titled "Golden Days at Walnut Hill" by William Loab.

I was born in Everett, Massachusetts but at a very young age moved to Woburn to the home provided by the Massachusetts Rifle Association to my parents when they became range keepers for the entire property. I do not remember just how long they remained as range keepers only that my brother Arthur who loves in East Woburn and my sister Margaret Narkewich now living in Burlington were both born there. I have a picture that was taken on June 16, 1921 when I was four years old of my brother Arthur and I sitting on the running board of MRA member Charlie Bills who was a good friend of my parents. If my memory serves me correctly, Charlie Bills was a doctor.

During the time my parents were range keepers they build the old homestead presently located at 4 Merrietta Ave, Woburn, Mass and just a stones throw from one of the boundry lines of the old rifle range.

I can say that I spent the most joyous days of my childhood roaming the many acres of forested landthat was the old range property. To attest to the great amount of activity at the MRA back when the militia used the range for practice, after a very bad fire that burned over many acres of the property, I discovered many small piles of large lead slugs in various places where they had dropped after being fired. At that time I was informed that the lead slugs were the type fired by the militia.

Whenever I have the chance to visit Woburn, Massachusetts, I like to visit the old rifle range area that I liked so well although there is not much left of it.

Sincerely,

George D. Beauchamp

GEORGE D. BEAUCHAMP, SR.

MANCHESTER NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY NEWS

"There Is Nothing So Powerful As Truth"

UNION LEADER CORPORATION
Manchester, N. H. 03105
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WILLIAM LOEB
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

November 20, 1975
(dict. Nov. 17)

Mr. Nate Guyer
12 Evans Road
Stoneham, Mass. 02180

Dear Nate:

You might have a chuckle over this typed copy of a letter from Dr. Horace Brown of Los Angeles. Horace was a fellow Director of the National Rifle Association and was a great supporter of the vigorous segment of directors who have not been re-elected in the last few years. Horace has more medals and cups and trophies for shooting than almost anyone I know. Although he is in his mid 60's, he goes to Alaska each year and I have yet to hear of him coming ba ck without a moose which he always gets with the first shot. He's quite a lad. I thought you would enjoy the story of his meeting with Pope.

Regards.

Very sincerely,

Bill

William Loeb
President

W.L.-Miss M.Grady
Enc.

(5)

Lunch hour

November 10, 1975

Dear Bill,

Your MRA story in the Rifleman was a masterpiece.

Of course, you had some brainy well known people to write about and the funny things that happened.

I use, and have proven correct, Dr. Mann's ballistic information. Of course, my pistols all have Patridge sights. The most human things about the MRA that I can relate is about Pope, the barrel maker.

I was seated on a toilet in the big Men's Room at Perry. I didn't know the fine old gentleman seated next to me, but he spole up: "How's things going for you, Son?" I told him rather well, except I'll have hold a little steadier.

That did it. He wanted to talk to me outside when finished. Outside he carefully explained all he knew about holding steady and I learned several things additional to my own technique.

Later on, I found out that the old gentleman was Pope and that he was the finest off-hand rifle shot alive.

I saw him several times again, he we "chewed the fat," so I had a chance to really thank him.

The radio this A.M. said Reagan will announce Nov. 20 his decision on being president. I wish he had decided sooner-- he's one helluva good man.

I hope you and Nackey had a good goose hunt. Best to her. My best to Mary, too.

Warmest regards,

Horace (Brown)

3780 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal 90010

A Message to the Voting Membership:

With the increasing pressure to raise taxes and the continued increase in operating expenses, it is more important now, than ever before, to protect the Non-Profit status of our Association.

If the requested change is approved we can remove one of the major stumbling blocks to a continued Non-Profit statusand open the way to a possible tax free status. Anyone reading the papers, these past months, can appreciate the possibility of a substantial increase in our property taxes and understand the urgency in preparing to fight for our Association's very existence in the near future.

Sincerely
M.R.A. By-Law Committee.

Edward J. Glass 9/7/76
Harry Burgie 9/7/76
Robert E. Geary 9/7/76
W. H. Chamberlain 9/7/76
Arthur Hael 9/7/76
Edward Flaherty 9/7/76
[illegible] 9/7/76
Raymond S. Pinizzotto 9/7/76

Petition to Amend the By-Laws of the Mass. Rifle Assoc.

To the Honorable Board of Directors of the Mass. Rifle Assoc.

To the Voting membership of the Mass. Rifle Assoc. and to Whom it May Concern:

Whereas, the above mentioned Mass. Rifle Assoc. is bound by a set of By-Laws voted and approved by the membership at its last Annual Meeting of October 1969 and

Whereas, these same By-Laws include the manner in which there may be an Ammendment to these By-Laws namely Article IX, Paragraph #1.

Now, Therefore, We, the below listed Voting members in good standing, petition the changes of the By-Laws for the good and welfare of the said Mass. Rifle Assoc. and its members as follows:

Article V, Paragraph #1, Sub paragraph c:

Revise last sentence in said sub paragraph to read as follows

"Voting members, Life Members and Paid-up Voting Members alone have the right to vote at the Annual Meeting and at such special meetings as may be called and to hold elective office."

Article VI, Paragraph #9:

Rights Terminate with Membership:

" All rights and Privileges of a member shall terminate with his membership."

1 Edward J Geary 9/7/76
2 Mary Burns 9/7/76
3 Michael R Palumbo 9/7/76
4 Nathan E. Dwyer 9/7/76
5 Robert E Geary 9/7/76
6 Gerhard Schmidt 9/7/76
7 W R Chamberlain 9/7/76
8 Arthur Hall 9/7/76
9 Edward F George 9/7/76
10 J B Dwyer 9/7/76
11 Raymond S Pingold 9/7/76
12
13
14

Massachusetts Rifle Association
BULLGUN
September 1976

Now that Labor Day has past we may have time to enjoy the good weather and get out to the range for some shooting.

If you have not been to the range since the last issue of the Bullgun then you should visit the club. The new cover over the 50 yard firing line is up and was a big helpduring the heavy rains last month. The boys said that their heads were dry, but wish we could do something about the water around their knees. It seems that the rain was more than the ground could handle.
At the last Directors meeting the Board voted to replace the benches on the 25-50 yard firing line, and they should be completed soon.

Well fellows it seems that we have a "SPORTSMAN" at M.R.A. Some dirty ------shot a rabbit on the range during the past month. This rabbit was a pet and could be hand fed by several of our members. Shooting any game on range property has been a violation of the range rules for 101 years and results in the suspensionof the offenders membership. Anyone having information relative to the above shooting is requested to please inform the rangemaster or other club officer.
We do not need this type of "SPORTSMAN" at M.R.A.

Don't forget the Annual Meeting on October 5, 1976 at the clubhouse. Time 20:00 hours (8:00 P.M.) and there will be food and refrishments served after the meeting. An item of business will be on the floor for action so all voting members are requested to attend. Any member who wishes to become a voting member shoule see the attached extraction from the By-Laws for details.

We are about to start the new Junior shooting season and any member who has young people who would like to join the program are requested to read the enclosed flyer.
Your son or daughter may invite their friends to join if they are interested. The Juniors will meet on Thursday evenings from 19:00 to 21:30 hours (7:00 to 9:30 P.M.).
This program is free to the children of senior members except for a $2.00 Insurance fee which all Juniors must pay.

MATCHES

We now have a new fun match at M.R.A. and on Oct. 10, 1976 you can try your skill on the Metallic Silouette Targets.
Starting time is 2:00 P.M. The rules are as follows:
Any .22 Caliber rim fire rifle with Iron sights or telescopic sights not to exceed 8 power. The rifle and sights shall not exceed 7 pounds in weight. No hook butt plates, palmrests, slings or other target equipment may be used.
All targets a shot from the standing position, and all ammo must be purchased at the club before the match.
Course of Fire:

10 Rounds at 55 yards. Target is a Chicken
10 Rounds at 82 yards. Target is a Javelina
10 Rounds at 105 yards. Target is a Turkey
10 Rounds at 136 yards. Target is a Ram.

Target will swing in a vertical arc to indicate a hit then return to its original position. The Fee is $2.50 plus Ammo.
Prises for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last place will be awarded.
Come and try this new match which is sweeping the country.

Hunters Sight-in Days: Sept 25th, 26th, and Oct 3rd.

Next Regular Match CHARLEY THORNE
Sept. 18 and 19, 1976
See Flyer enclosed for details.

For better and safer Shooting

Tight Groups

MASSACHUSETTS RIFLE ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS RELATIVE TO VOTING STATUS.

Article IV Paragraph 9:
The membership committee shall consider the qualifications of candidates for membership and shall report its recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Article V Paragraph 1c:
Voting membership is limited to 75 dues paying members and such other Life and Paid up members that exist from time to time. Basic requirements for: United States citizenship; Good Reputation; A minimum age of 21 years; Current associate membership of at least two (2) years duration. If membership falls below 55, the requirement for two (2) years Associate membership may be waived by the Board of Directors, and the full quota of 75 voting members be filled in whole or in part. Voting, Life and Paid up Voting members a lone have the right to vote at the Annual Meeting and at such other Special Meetings as may be called, to hold elective office and to share equally in any distribution of the Corporations assets.

Article V Paragraph 2b
Associate members desiring voting status will apply in writing, enclosing as an initation fee a check or money order, payable to the Massachusetts Rifle Association, in the amount of Five dollars ($5.00), which will be returned if the application doe not receive favorable consideration. The membership committee shall process the application as indicated in paragraph 9, Article IV, hereof. Election to voting membership shall be only at the Annual Meeting, and only before the election of officers at that meeting. If applications outnumber vacancies, they shall be considered in order of the applicant's seniorty as measured by his length of continuous associate membership. In case of a tie, the successful applicant will be decided by lot, presence of applicants at the drawing not being required. Exception: The application of any one child of a voting member takes precedence over any others.

NOTE: THE TWO YEAR REQUIREMENT OF PARAGRAPH 1c; ARTICLE V HAS BEEN WAIVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Article VII Paragraph 6 Absenteeism
A voting member who fails to attend Annual Meetings for two consecuttive years shall lose voting status and be reclassified as an associate member. Excepted from this are members on active military service and those over 70 years of age.

CHARLEY THORNE MATCH
SEPTEMBER 18th and 19th 1976

Open match. Time 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Entry Fee $ 2.00 per match. Reentry $ 1.00 per match
2 Sighters, 10 shots, Standing position, 200 yards.

Match #1: Iron sights any Caliber, Free or any rifle, Decimal (A-21) target.

Match # 2 : Scope sights, any Caliber, Free or any rifle, Decimal (A-21) target.

Match # 3: Iron sights, .30 caliber Military rifle as issued, Military short range (A) target.
NO LEAD BULLETS.

Aggregate: Fee $ 2.00. Must be entered at first match.

Massachusetts Rifle Association
Walnut Hill
290 R Salem Street; Woburn, MA 01801

The MRA Junior Division will open the new shooting season on 23 September 1976 at 1900 hours (7:00) at the club house.

Members who had Juniors in the program last year who wish to have them continue for the new season should call the club on Thursday evening Sept. 16 between the hours of 20:00-21:00 (8:00 to 9:30 P.M.) to reserve a place in the shooting schedule.

Members wishing to enroll new Juniors between the ages of 9 and 18 years should bring their young people to the club on the weekends and see the Rangemaster; or see an instructor between the hours of 20:00-21:30 (8:00-9:30P.M.) Thursday evening Sept. 16 & 23rd. Parental consent is required and a $2.00 insurance fee must be paid.

MAJOR ACTIONS OF MRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 1975 to September 1976

November 1975

Board voted to purchase one half carload of clay pigeons (700 cases) for $2,100.00 to obtain additional savings.

Board voted to purchase for approximately $375.00 five Ruger Mark I target pistols for use in club safety courses.

January 1976

Board gave approval to proposal to replace old rug with particle board and new all-purpose rug for proposed cost of approximately $100.00 and paint walls, all on 50-foot range.

February 1976

Board voted as follows:

All new applicants for MRA membership must pass standard NRA written exam in firearms safety unless deemed qualified by chief instructor; furthermore, all new applicants who wish to use handguns at MRA or receive a letter from MRA for license must fire 10 consecutive shots on each of 3 non-consecutive NRA slow fire pistol targets at 50 feet, with each target showing 10 shots striking paper, regardless of score, witnessed by club instructor.

Board voted to transfer balance of $2,274.18 from Centennial account to general account and disband Centennial committee and voted to mark centennial die.

March 1976

Board voted to donate $100.00 to G O A L.

June 1976

Board voted to extend use of range facilities at MRA to Woburn Police Department under direct supervision of department instructors.

Board voted to construct new 25-50 yard barriers for cost of $3,678.00.

July 1976

Board voted to construct new 25-50 yard firing point cover for cost of $2,172.00.

Board voted to retain legal counsel for opinion on status of MRA as non-profit organization.

August 1976

Board voted to form committee to report to Directors concerning change in MRA By-Laws eliminating reference to distribution of assets to members.

September 1976

Board voted Director's approval of change in By-Laws proposed by Committee concerning eliminating reference to distribution of assets to voting members.

Edward George, Jr.
Secretary

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WILLIAM LOEB
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

January 15, 1975
(Dict. Jan. 14)

Mr. Nathan E. Guyer
12 Evans Road
Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180

Dear Nate:

As promised, here is a photocopy of the first draft of the history.

Now I meant it when I said don't hesitate to tear it apart, rip it up, throw it away or send it back to me for another job if it doesn't appeal to you. I am not in any way sensitive about what I write. I learned to stop worrying about that years ago.

I left the numbers of the membership blank for you to fill in and anything you want to say about modern matches which I haven't said much about because remember I am not a rifle or pistol shooter, but a trap lad, so you can add anything along thatline that you think ought to be added.

Let me know how you feel about all of this and I can correct it and send you back the final version which you can send to the printer.

Regards.

Very sincerely,

Bill

William Loeb
President

WL:Mrs. D. Hapgood
Enc.